

US Army Corps of Engineers.

Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390
ATTN: CENAP-OP-R

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-OP-R-2012-0101

Date

MAY 08 2013

Application No.

File No.

In Reply Refer to:

REGULATORY BRANCH

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

APPLICANT:

The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Morrisville

AGENT:

James C. McCann

Pennoni Associates, Incorporated

One Drexel Plaza

3001 Market Street, Suite 200 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

WATERWAY:

Delaware River

LOCATION: Approximately 2100 feet south of the Route 1 Bridge over the Delaware River, in the Borough of Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The applicant proposes to install a pipeline with an associated diffuser to **ACTIVITY:** upgrade the existing outfall that conveys effluent from a wastewater treatment facility. This office previously approved the existing outfall at the site on February 11, 1975. A diversionary box would be installed approximately sixty five (65) feet landward of the mean high water line to divert the wastewater from the existing pipeline into the proposed pipeline. A scour hole at the site of the existing outfall would be filled with clean material, impacting approximately twelve hundredth (0.12) of an acre of the waterway. The proposed pipeline, which would be a thirty (30) inch HDPE, would be installed using the wet trench method. The proposed trench would be a maximum of seven (7) foot wide and have a maximum depth of seven (7) feet within areas of Federal jurisdiction. A backhoe would be located on-shore to install the pipeline landward of the high tide line. The backhoe would be placed on a barge that would move along the pipeline waterward of the high tide line. The pipeline would be assembled on-shore, then the barge would pull the pipeline from shore into position within the trench. Excavated material, composed primarily of rocks, cobbles and gravel, would be placed on a barge that would be used to install the pipeline waterward of mean high water. Material from the excavated trench will be returned into the trench, on top of the proposed pipeline. A concrete revetment mat would be installed above the pipe and the edges of the mat would be covered with rip-rap to prevent

scouring. A trench and associated pipeline would extend approximately four hundred forty five (445) feet in length within areas of Federal jurisdiction. The pipeline would be paced approximately two (2) to three (3) feet below the existing substrate. The pipeline would be anchored in the trench with forty four (44) seven (7) foot long, two (2) foot wide concrete anchores that would be placed at approximately ten (10) foot intervals. At its waterward end, a three (3) pronge diffuser would be installed. An eighteen (18) inch HDPE pipe would connect to the pipeline from shore and would run approximiately forty (40) feet parallel to the shore with four (4) six (6) foot long by two (2) foot wide anchors. The three (3) pronges would be eight (8) inch duckbill diffusors that extend approximately fifteen (15) feet perpendicular to the shoreline. Six (6) five (5) foot long, two (2) foot wide concrete anchors would be installed along the diffuser pipes to ensure that they are stable. The end of the diffusers would extend approximately one (1) foot above the substrate (approximately four (4) feet below mean low water) upon completion of the work. Approximately twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of the waterway would be impacted by the trench, with fill, the concrete anchors and the revetment mat being placed within the waterway. The remaining excavated material would be disposed of at KPK Development Corporation facility in Farless Hills, Pennsylvania. This site has been approved by the Pennsylvania Departement of Environmental Protection for the disposal of excavated material.

All work associated with the project would occur no closer than one hundred eighty (180) feet from the edge of the Federal navigation channel. Approximately once a year, the proposed pipeline would be back flowed to allow any debris at the duckbill diffusers to be dislodged. Approximately five (5) gallons of return water from the treatment plant would be sent through the proposed pipeline under pressure, to remove any debris at the waterward end of the discharge pipe.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to comply with Delaware River Basin Commission Docket Number D-1987-008-CP-2 dated July 13, 2011. Additionally the work would allow for a higher dilution factor for the effluent leaving the wastewater treatment facility.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work may impact 2 species listed on the Endangered Species List, Shortnose Sturgeon (<u>Acipenser brevirostrum</u>) and Atlantic Sturgeon (<u>Acipenser oxyrinchus</u>). The applicant has stated that they are planning to perform the work during low flow portions of the year, minimizing impact to aquatic resources. As required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, this office will coordinate with the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure impacts to these species will be minimal

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people. A Department of the Army permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted, in writing, within 15 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located within the permit area of the work. Additionally, the permit area has been so extensively modified that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impact a historic property. Finally, the proposed work and/or structures are of such limited nature and scope that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impact a historic property.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary assessment of the species listed in the "Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States, Volume IV: New Jersey and Delaware", dated March 1999, shows that the site is not within the EFH zone.

Analysis of the Effects: The project will have no effect on EFH, or the species of concern.

Corps of Engineers View: Based upon the above analysis, the Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed project would have no direct, indirect, site-specific, or habitat-wide impact on EFH, or upon the managed species and their life stages listed in the above referenced EFH guide, either individually, cumulatively or synergistically. The proposed project would not eliminate, diminish, nor disrupt the functions of EFH.

Compensatory mitigation According to Federal regulation 33 CFR 325.1(d)(7), applicants wishing to discharge fill material into waters of the U.S. must include a statement on how they have avoided and minimized impacts as well as how they intend to compensate for unavoidable impacts. The applicant has avoided/minimized impacts to the aquatic environment by incorporating engineering/construction procedures into the process that will substantially reduce impacts to aquatic resources. Construction operations would take place during low flow conditions of the river and after migratory fish spawning times. The excavated material consists of sand and gravel; which would not have a significant impact on water quality. The contractor would employ best management practices to reduce the introduction and suspension of material into the water column by reducing the rat of ascent of the bucket through the water column

where applicable. For most of the length of the proposed outfall, the water depths are shallow, 0-4 feet at low tide, so there would be a lack of physical water column during the low tide periods of the day. There will also be protection on the barges to prevent overflow of the material during loading operations. Construction would also not be permitted during high storm flow events. Therefore, the applicant believes that no compensatory mitigation is warranted in this matter.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact of the proposed and/or existing activity on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office, with a copy to the State's Office of Coastal Zone Management.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

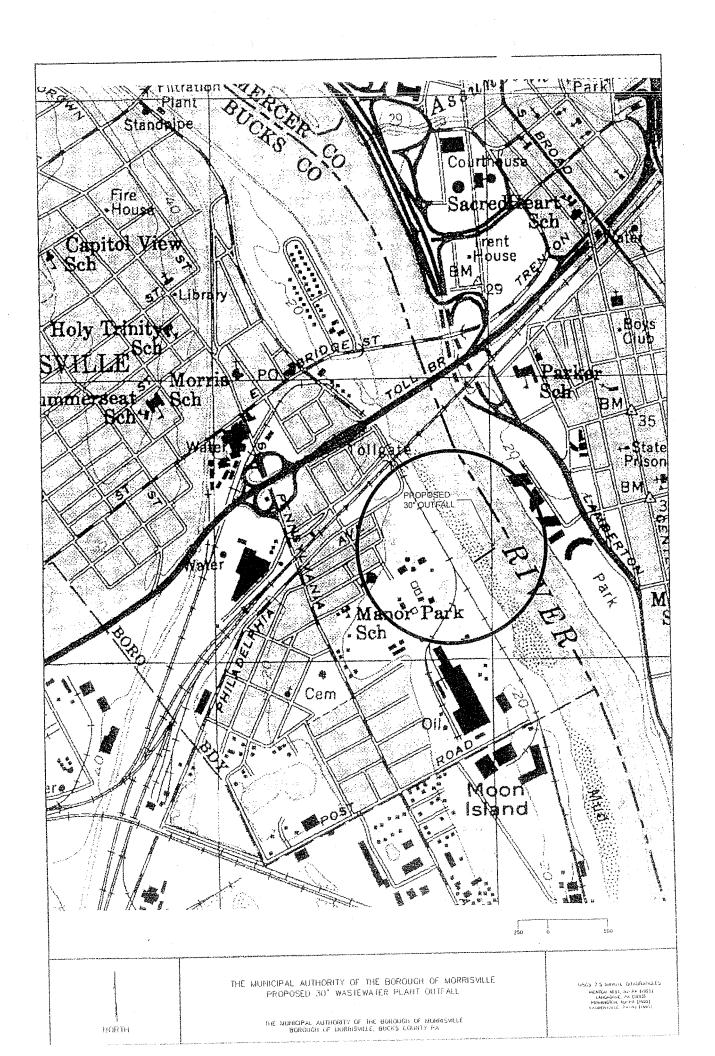
The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

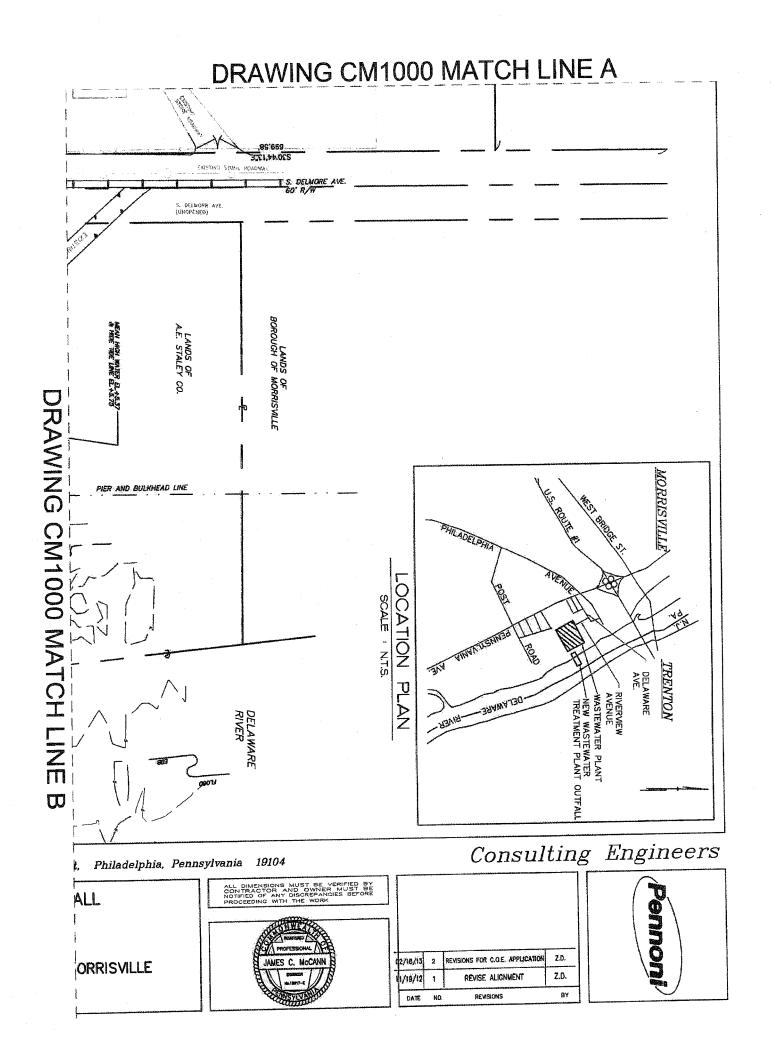
Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

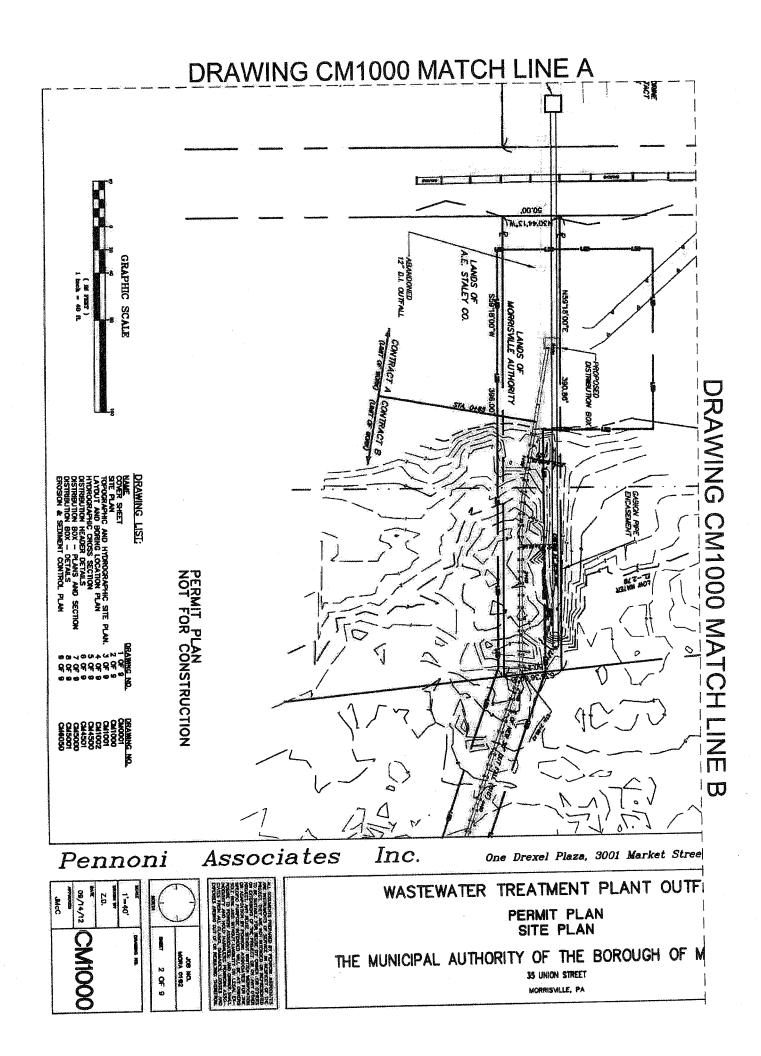
Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling Lawrence Slavitter at 215-656-6734, via email at lawrence.m.slavitter@usace.army.mil, or writing this office at the above address.

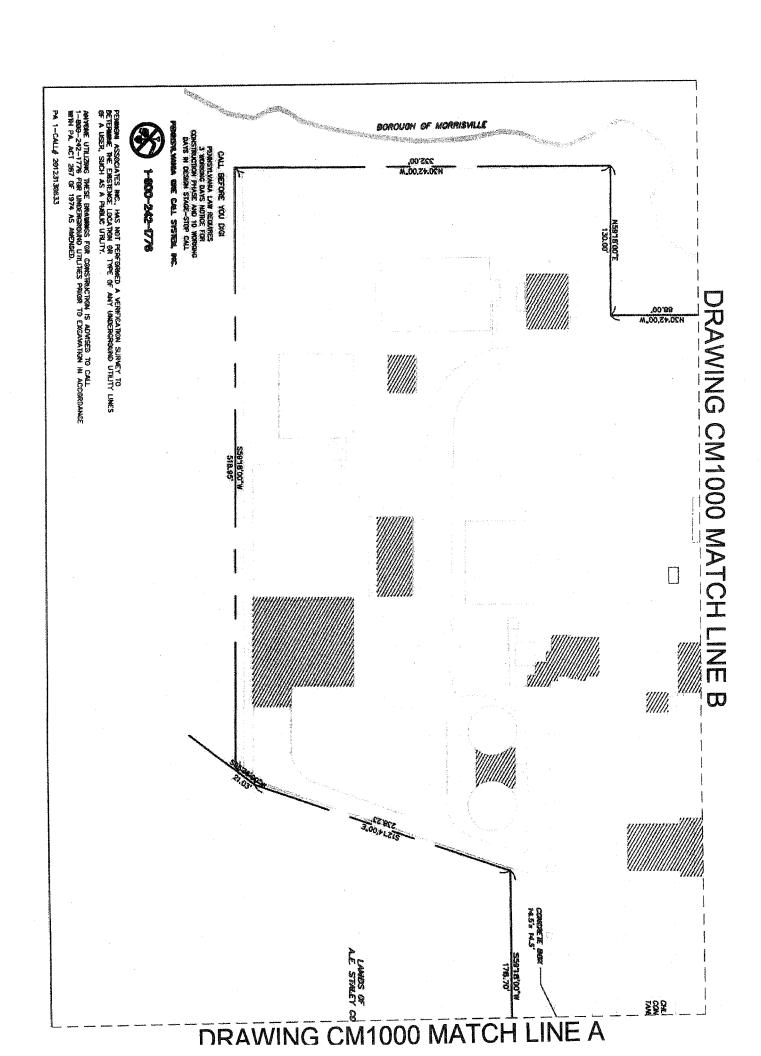
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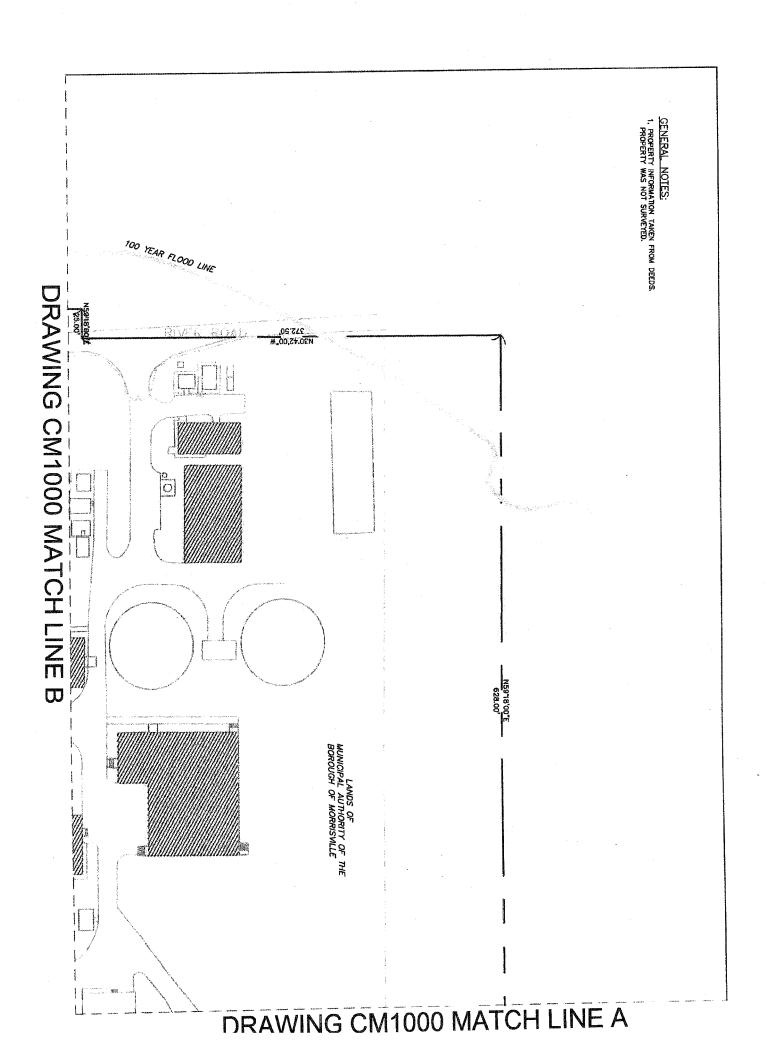
Chief, Regulatory Branch











BARDYAM REMEMBER (Location) & NUMBER

NAVIGATION CHANNEL

GRAPHIC SCALE

LOW WATER (EL-278)

LEGEND:

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY

WEAN HIGH WATER (EL+5.37) & HIGH THUE LINE (EL+5.75)

PERMIT PLAN NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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HERAL MOTES

DRAWING CM1001 MATCH LINE

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Pennoni

Associates

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Inc.

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35 UNION STREET MORRISVILLE, PA

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DRAWING CM4500 MATCH LINE A Z BBFL-52 PIPE INV. ELEV BLF PROPOSED 12" QUITALL EL-6.3 PE INV. ELEV FI -7.0 PIPE INV. ELEV DRAWING CM4500 MATCH LINE PROPOSED Ø OUTFALL. NOTES:

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